

1956/1958
A.I.

Magor and St. Mellons
Rural District Council.

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1955.

NEWPORT, MON.

H. DIGHT AND SONS, PRINTERS,

1956.

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MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE, 1955-56.

Chairman : Councillor W. T. STEPHENS.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor Mrs. M. E. JONES.

Councillor E. Bayliss.	Councillor D. G. Evans.
„ S. V. Cox.	„ J. H. Davies.
„ W. H. Thomas.	„ G. T. Weekes.
„ C. J. Williams.	„ B. O. Davies.
„ A. C. Phillips.	„ W. H. Sparkes.
„ Mrs. R. Griffiths.	„ H. M. Sullivan.
„ R. E. Silvey.	„ Mrs. B. M.
„ F. W. Richards.	„ Stephens
„ J. Price.	„ J. H. Padmore.
„ C. T. Hackworthy.	„ R. Davies.
„ S. Wills.	„ Mrs. C. M. Davies
„ H. Price.	„ J.P.
„ W. D. Duthie.	„ H. M. Thomas.
„ G. F. Williams.	„ A. L. Pearce.
„ W. T. Harris,	„ O. Coleman.
„ O.B.E., M.C.	„ A. H. Williams.
„ E. Baker.	„ R. H. Addis.
„ H. Harris.	„ H. David.

Officers:

Clerk & Financial Officer -	H. E. M. KEENE, F.Comm.A.
Deputy Clerk - -	D. C. V. GWYNN
Medical Officer of Health -	K. P. GILES, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector -	I. JAMES, Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
Additional Sanitary Inspector - -	A. H. TOMKINS, Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
Surveyor & Engineer -	H. ROBERTS, A.M.I.C.E.

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending 31st December, 1955.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon general conditions of the Public Health for the year for the Rural District of Magor and St. Mellons.

The report is drawn up on the lines indicated in Circulars 28/54 and 17/55 (Wales).

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population estimated for 1955	...	...	...	13,780
Area (consisting of 26 parishes)	...	...	...	43,442 acres
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,201
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£88,544
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	£381

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered was :—

	M.	F.	Total.
Total Births	...	...	...
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...
Total Still Births	...	...	...
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population for 1955 was 15.02
 The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1955 was ... 15.0
 The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire for 1955 was ... 15.29

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:

The number of deaths 2 (M. 1) (F. 1) giving a
 rate of 1,000 live births ... 9.66
 The Rate for the whole of England and Wales was 24.9
 The Rate for Monmouthshire was ... 33.96
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... Nil
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... Nil

Ages of Children at death under 1 year:

Under 1 week	...	...	2
1—2 weeks	...	...	Nil
2—3 weeks	...	...	Nil
3—4 weeks	...	...	Nil
Total under 1 month			2
			—
1—3 months	...	...	Nil
3—6 months	...	...	Nil
6—9 months	...	...	Nil
9—12 months	...	...	Nil
Total under one year			2
			—

DEATH RATE.

The number of Deaths registered during the year was ... 149
 (M. 69, F. 80) giving a Death Rate of 10.3 per 1,000.
 The Death Rate for England and Wales was ... 11.7
 The Death Rate for Monmouthshire was ... 12.4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

In the following table deaths are classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

	M.	F
Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis, other	Nil	Nil
Syphilitic Diseases	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria ..	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal infection	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
Measles	Nil	Nil
Other infective and parasitic diseases	Nil	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	Nil
Malignant neoplasm, breast	Nil	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	Nil	2
Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms	7	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	Nil	1
Diabetes	Nil	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	13
Coronary disease, angina	10	10
Hypertension with heart disease	1	Nil
Other heart disease	13	10
Other circulatory diseases	4	7
Influenza	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	Nil	Nil
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	Nil
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	2
Congenital malformations	Nil	Nil
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	9
Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	2
All other accidents	4	2
Suicide	2	Nil
Homicide and operations of war	Nil	Nil
All causes	Totals 69	80

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health, two Sanitary Inspectors (whole-time Officers).

A contribution of one-half of the salaries is paid by the Monmouthshire County Council.

HOSPITAL HEALTH SERVICES, ETC.

Since 5th July, 1947, these are administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ETC.

The Monmouthshire County Council as Local Health Authority are responsible for the arrangements and Administration of the Services under Part III of the Act.

The following is a summary of these Services:—

- (1) Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- (2) Midwifery Services.
- (3) Health Visiting.
- (4) Home Nursing.
- (5) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (6) Ambulance Services.
- (7) Prevention of illness Care and After-Care.
- (8) Domestic Help.
- (9) Duties under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Act and Mental Deficiency Act.

MIDWIVES.

There is one full-time Midwife and three District Nurse/Midwives practicing within the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

During the year a small extension to the main was made at Parc Seymour, Penhow, to provide a supply for 18 new Council Houses. A new main of approximately 500 yards was laid in Pencoed Lane, Llanmartin, providing a better supply for 6 properties which had for some years been insufficiently served by a private supply.

An extension of approximately 800 yards was made in Began Road, St. Mellons, providing an adequate supply for a farm and 5 other properties which had for some years received piped water from an untreated private source, which of course was of variable quality and at times of inadequate quantity.

Approval was also granted for an extension to be made from Cardiff Rural District Council mains to supply the village area of Lower Machen with a treated supply in substitution for the existing untreated supply which has in recent years proved to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory particularly after heavy rain.

During the year the Tredegar Estate treated supply to Coedkernew from Cefn Llogel was discontinued. Water from Newport Corporation being substituted over existing network.

Whilst most of the Council's area is adequately served with piped supplies the following "pockets" remain without a sufficient and generally wholesome supply: Coedycerau area of Langstone—11 dwellings; Mynydd Allt Tir Vach area of Llanvaches—29 dwellings, and the Craig-y-Ceiliog area of Bettws—7 dwellings. Most of these dwellings are dependent on "springs or wells," the water from which is of variable quantity and quality, whilst in a few cases rain water storage tanks are utilised.

The piped supplies of water in this Rural District from waterworks are "constant" and not intermittent and are not liable to plumb-solvency action.

PARTICULARS OF PIPED WATER SUPPLIES IN EACH PARISH.

A. By Local Authority or Statutory Water Undertakers.

PARISH	Number of Dwelling Houses	Number Supplied	Estimated Population	Approximate Population Served
Rogerstone	... 1539	1528	5048	5012
Graig	... 485	442	1593	1,450
Marshfield	... 241	226	790	741
St. Mellons	... 298	280	977	918
St. Brides W.	... 59	58	193	190
Peterstone W.	... 48	47	157	154
Henllys	... 93	70	305	230
Bettws	... 44	31	144	102
Michaelstone-y-Vedw	59	41	193	134
Langstone	... 274	256	899	840
Llanwern	... 93	91	305	298
Bishton	... 81	77	266	253
Kemeys Inferior	... 44	25	144	82
Llanmartin	... 65	60	213	197
Llandavenny	... 10	9	33	30
Nash	... 87	84	285	276
Goldcliffe	... 59	54	193	177
Whitson	... 19	17	62	56
Redwick	... 58	56	190	184
Penhow	... 85	65	279	213
Wilcrick	... 5	5	17	16
Magor	... 180	178	592	584
Llanvaches	... 71	30	233	98
Duffryn	... 111	98	364	321
Lower Machen	... 36	4	118	13
Coedkernew	... 57	48	187	157

B. Private Supplies—

Graig	Given above	13	Given above	43
Marshfield	"	6	"	20
Michaelstone-y-Vedw	"	2	"	7
Llanvaches	"	8	"	26
St. Mellons	"	11	"	36
Lower Machen	"	20	"	66
Coedkernew	"	8	"	26
Henllys	"	6	"	20
Totals	...	4,201	13,780	12,970

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year the following additional works were completed :—

Sewers for 208 houses, 14 bungalows and 80 flats at the Council's new housing estate at Rogerstone; new sewer for 14 houses in Forge Lane, Bassaleg; sewers and disposal works at Penhow for 18 Council houses.

It is with pleasure that I record the opening of the public convenience at St. Brides during the year, and it is to be hoped that the Council will be able to provide proper washing facilities therein in the not too distant future.

Demands upon the Council's Cesspool Emptying Service continue to increase, 692 cesspools within the area being cleansed when required in addition to the desludging of small sewage disposal plants and septic tanks. If this trend continues it might well be necessary for the Council to augment the existing service in the near future.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year	...	147
(i) By the Local Authority		92
(ii) By other Local Authorities		Nil
(iii) By other Bodies or persons		55

All Housing Authorities were notified by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in Circular 48/55 dated 29th September, 1955, that Returns relating to the Demolition, Closing and Repair of Houses under the Public Health and Housing Acts 1936 were in future to be submitted quarterly to that Department on Form P.13 (Hsg) and as this Return will provide all the information necessary for ministerial purposes, consequently the inclusion of details upon housing matters in the report is discontinued.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938, Sections 13 and 15.

All licensed premises, kitchens, canteens and food preparing places were visited regularly by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and myself, attention principally being directed to:—

- (a) The provision of adequate facilities to enable persons engaged in the handling of food to observe a high standard of cleanliness in regard to themselves.
- (b) The improvement of existing buildings so that the surfaces and fittings thereof could be readily cleansed.
- (c) Provision of suitable food storage to enable foodstuffs to be stored safely.

In addition, advice was given and suggestions were made to proprietors and employees with the aim of making them fully acquainted with their responsibilities under the Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, etc.

Nevertheless, if the incidence of food and drink infection is to be kept to a minimum much still remains to be done in the field of education in food hygiene before the full co-operation of all persons engaged in food preparation and handling together with that of the general public is obtained.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 to 1954 Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 to 1954, Milk Regulations 1949 to 1954.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, 1954, came into operation on the 1st April, 1954, in respect of this Rural District.

This meant that all milk retained within the area must be sold under a special designation. The special designations authorised being "Pasteurised," "Sterilised," and "Tuberculin Tested."

By virtue of the above-mentioned regulations certain other changes in the law relating to specially designated milk came into force on 1st October, 1954.

Firstly, Producers' licences to use the special designation "Accredited" expired and were not thereafter renewable. Dairymen who until then had retailed "Accredited" milk in a specified area had to sell or supply pasteurised milk, sterilised milk or tuberculin tested milk.

Secondly, every container (whether churn, can or bottle) in which pasteurised milk is transported, exposed or offered for sale, is required to be fitted with a cap or cover overlapping the lip of the container or closed and fastened in some other suitable manner approved by the licensing authority.

Lastly, pasteurisers are now required to put the milk into containers in which it is to be delivered to the customers at the premises at which milk is pasteurised, and as soon as possible after pasteurisation. Accordingly the sale of pasteurised milk by can and dipper became illegal.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Sanitary Inspector after the receipt of a Notification. Where necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of the patient to an Isolation Hospital, if accommodation is available.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is carried out at the Laboratory, County Hall, Newport, by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is supplied free by the Regional Hospital Board.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. During the year 1955 a further 129 children were immunised:—

No. of children under 5 years	...	...	114
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No. of children between 5 and 15 years	...	15
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There were no notifications of Diphtheria received during the year.

Notifiable Diseases.

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, according to Age Groups for 1955.

DISEASE	Cases Notified.										Deaths.										Age Groups.					Admitted to Hospital	
	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over	Totals all ages	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over		Totals all ages
Diphtheria	...	1	4	4	3	15	4	...	2	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Pneumonia	...	...	1	1	2	4	1	...	3	4	4	11	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Enceph. Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Measles & German Measles	1	5	12	11	12	29	2	...	...	...	...	...	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Whooping Cough	2	2	2	5	3	22	1	...	...	...	...	...	37	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—
Totals	3	9	18	21	20	72	8	...	5	5	5	11	177	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.	—

Tuberculosis is not included in this summary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1955.

Age groups	New Cases					Deaths				
	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Total	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Non-Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary F.	Total
0-1 years	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...
1-5 "		...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...
5-15 "	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
15-25 "	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25-35 "	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
35-45 "	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
45-65 "	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
65 and up	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...
Total	3	2	2	1	8	—	—	—	—	Nil

Tuberculosis.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis compares favourably with other areas. It is pleasing to record that there was a decrease in the prevalence of the disease, 8 cases having been notified, as compared with 13 in 1954. Hospital facilities are still very inadequate due to lack of accommodation and shortage of nursing staff.

Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning reported during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH P. GILES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Annual Report on the work carried out in the Sanitary Inspector's Department for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

As usual Housing repairs and reconditioning held high priority during the year.

On the 30th August, 1954, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 came into force and until the passing into law of this Act, legislation governing the repairs, closing and demolition of houses "Unfit for human habitation" had not undergone any material change for a quarter of a century.

The Housing Act 1949, it is true, introduced facilities for the improvement and conversions of houses by private owners with financial aid from the Exchequer.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was introduced in an effort to improve the condition of millions of houses which have many useful years of life in them if only the means were provided to enable the essential repairs or conversions to be carried out. Financial attractions, a new standard of fitness for human habitation, increase in rents, and easier improvement grants were placed at the disposal of the Local Government. The Act also required all Housing Authorities to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government within one year, a return of the number of houses in their areas which were, on the date the Return was submitted, so "Unfit for human habitation" as to suggest immediate Demolition.

The figure submitted by the Authority was 98.

During the years 1949-1955, 19 grants were given by this Authority, of which 16 were granted during 1955.

Three applications for certificates of disrepair were received.

Without doubt there is good in the Act and it is the duty of the Local Authority and its Officers to fulfill its statutory obligations and if in the light of experience, shortcomings are brought to the fore passed on to the Authority they will, as before, be made good. After many years of delay and frustration full attention is now focussed upon the Public Health aspect of Local Authorities Housing and it is for the Officers concerned, by the implementation of the policy laid down by their authorities, to produce the results the government requires.

I am happy to note that the Local Authority is formulating a responsible policy and foreseeing the immediate and essential need of housing aged people. Nothing can be more depressing than to constitute a kind of island of human distress to which help cannot be brought because there is no boat to a happier mainland. This is the lot of an unknown number of elderly people who up to the present, owing to their meagre financial position are obliged to live under conditions with the minimum of modern amenities. It is for us as people responsible for a policy in Local Authority's Housing to try and gauge future demands and foresee the new needs that are emerging and to meet them in a worthy fashion.

Housing is still one of the biggest jobs the local authority has to do and may we carry it on in such a manner as it has been said to be a "memorial of our skill and imagination."

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS.

The following is a summary of work carried out as a result of 61 informal and 18 abatement notices served upon the owners concerned :—

Number of :

Walls made damp proof	...	...	...	...	27
Sash cords provided to windows	...	...	...	...	23
Windows and window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	26
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Gutterings and downpipes repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Doors repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	10
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	15
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	24
Skirting boards repaired	...	...	...	...	3

Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	16
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
W.C. cisterns, flush pipes and service water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
W.C. pans and W.C. structures repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Grates repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The services of the Rodent Operative is fully occupied not only since and because the public has become aware of the free treatment of infestation of dwelling houses, but also because of the effective and satisfactory measures in which the infestations are dealt with and ultimately eradicated. A high standard of efficiency is called upon and I am satisfied that the services given by the Local Authority is one worthy of public funds.

Part of the work of the Operative is involved in the destruction of rats living in sewers, the methods employed being those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food. This consists of the placing of two plain baits either on consecutive or alternative days in various man-holes along the different lengths of sewers which had previously shown on test baiting to be infested followed by poison baiting.

Two maintenance treatments of sewers were carried out which were successful as revealed in the statistics compared with previous treatments.

The field work of the Rodent Operative is not confined only to dwelling houses, sewers and business premises but incorporates farms and farm buildings. Where infestations exist, immediate notification is forwarded to the Pest Control Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food who visit and arrange for disinfection under contract.

During the year 221 private and other premises were treated with satisfactory results. 14 routine treatments were carried out of the Council's Camps and Refuse Tips.

78 farms were inspected and notifications forwarded to the Pest Control Department where infestations occurred.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of notified infectious diseases were visited and investigated and terminal disinfection carried out.

Visits made	...	...	...	68
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	21
Patients removed to hospital	...	...	...	12

WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of houses supplied from public water mains :—

(i) Direct to the houses	...	...	3,854
(ii) By means of stand-pipes	...	...	15

Appropriate population supplied by public water mains :—

(i) Direct to the houses	...	...	12,526
(ii) By means of stand-pipes	...	...	49

PIPED SUPPLIES.

16 samples of treated supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination out of which three were unsatisfactory. These samples were taken from the Council's Cardiff and Newport Corporation supplies at various points within the area.

A further 34 samples of untreated supplies were also submitted for bacteriological examination, out of which 12 were unsatisfactory.

152 connections from the Council's and the Newport Corporation water mains were carried out during the year; of this 147 connections were to new houses occupied during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act 1950, relating to sanitary and other arrangements in shops.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 5 butcher's shops within the area. There are no licensed private slaughterhouses, the meat being collected for sale from the shops from neighbouring public and private slaughterhouses.

Five applications were received for licences to slaughter pigs only, all of which were granted by the Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936—SECTION 296.
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1947.
SECTION 17—MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The establishment of two camping sites at St. Brides Wentlooge has succeeded to a large extent in absorbing applications for siting individual caravans throughout the area. Where applications are received for the desirability of siting outside the camping sites the matter is dealt with jointly from the Public Health point of view by the Local Authority and the planning aspect by the County Planning Officer's Department. Usually a licence is granted provided that the stay is not a permanent one but is of reasonably short duration. However, it may well be, that the creation of additional residential caravan sites is no solution to the housing problem created by overcrowding and slum clearance, and that the caravan itself, suitable for the young married couple, produces inferior accommodation for a growing family. The caravan is accommodation of a temporary nature for small families only but if the accommodation is likely to be permanent in character, difficulties soon manifest themselves.

I would like to add my thanks for the prompt assistance given by the Planning Officer's Department with regard to circumstances that arose from a planning aspect whilst dealing with caravan applications.

17 individual applications were received to station caravans in different parts of the area, all of which were granted until 31st December, 1955, when the applications would again be reviewed for a further 12 months.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.)
REGULATIONS, 1947-52.

The usual necessary periodical inspections of all the registered premises for the sale of ice-cream were carried out during the past 12 months.

The full co-operation of all retailers was received during visits of inspections and taking of samples.

Inasmuch as there are no premises registered within the area to manufacture ice-cream the trend of the retailers is to purchase Ice-Cream pre-packed from manufacturers outside the area.

During the course of the visits no adverse condition was noted.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A large proportion of district work was in connection with the ever-increasing and important work of inspection of premises where food is stored, prepared and sold to the public.

The Food and Drugs Act 1955 is the principal Act for controlling the composition, labelling, fitness and hygiene handling of Food and the new Food Hygiene Regulations (which come into force on January 1st, 1956) the principal instrument for enforcing good hygiene practice. A strengthening of the powers of the Local Authority to enforce a satisfactory standard of food hygiene and to require the observance of proper safeguards to prevent food poisoning was certainly overdue and the new legislation will certainly be welcomed.

The Food and Drugs Act 1955 went a considerable way to improve the standard of food hygiene.

Clean food awareness is becoming apparent in the number of requests that Public Health Officers are receiving to give talks and answer questions on the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act—an unexpected but pleasant change from the past when Public Health workers generally had to take the lead in the face of public indifference and I hasten to add that credit is due in no small measure to the Local Authorities themselves.

Irrespective of the dangers of Food poisoning, outbreaks which all too frequently stimulate public interest, any low standard of food hygiene in this country is becoming more and more objectionable to an increasing number of people and until all food handlers have a basic knowledge of the causes of food poisoning, and the methods necessary to prevent them, outbreaks will continue. A good time to teach food handlers the facts are when they are still at school and I am satisfied that this type of knowledge can be imparted to the average school child very easily without conflicting with other essential and complicated subjects which they are expected to absorb.

Securing public goodwill is also half the secret of successfully launching a new health project or even of maintaining a high standard of efficiency in a health department.

The 97 premises were regularly inspected, and it is pleasing to note that no serious contravention occurred. Where the carrying out of any work was involved or adjustments made to comply with any of the statutory provisions, assistance and co-operation was in all cases readily given.

The following is a list of food found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption :—

- 42 lbs. of Luncheon Meat.
- 16 lbs. of Cooked Ham.
- 32 lbs. of Meat Roll.
- 24 lbs. of Evaporated Milk.
- 8 lbs. of Corned Beef.
- 12 lbs. of Tomatoes.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Since the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order 1954 came into operation on the 1st April, 1954, in respect to the area, all milk retailed must be sold under Special authorised designations, namely Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin Tested. In addition and consequent upon the introduction of this legislation, all milk sold by retail must be in bottles as the sale of milk either loose or by can and dipper is now illegal. Most of the milk produced within the area is sold wholesale to the large pasteurising establishments and the majority of distributors obtain their designated milk already bottled from these depôts.

A few complaints were received during the year, the majority of which usually arose from the use of dirty bottles. Although the high speed washing plants now installed by practically all dairies may be efficient in themselves, the inspection of the washed bottles must be carried out by the human eye which cannot carefully examine them at the speeds involved. There is always present the danger of passing unnoticed the one bottle which may not be thoroughly treated and cleansed. Considerable help can be given by every housewife if the bottles were thoroughly cleansed immediately after they were emptied, since once they become encrusted with dirt and stale milk, they cannot be easily dealt with in the washing machine.

The use and cleansing of milk bottles which entails expensive equipment, large quantities of water and detergent and considerable factory space together with the handling of heavy crates could be replaced by the waxed carton, thus obviating

the risk of abuse and contamination from dirty bottles. The replacement should be a matter worthy of future consideration from a public health and hygienic point of view, but the ever present question of finance must also be satisfactorily answered which often has the tendency to slow up the trend towards public health safeguards.

53 licences to retail designated milk were issued and 25 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, 2 of which were unsatisfactory.

HOUSE REFUSE.

A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out in the following Parishes: Llanwern, Graig, Duffryn, Rogerstone and St. Mellons and a fortnightly collection is maintained in all remaining parishes of the district.

Disposal is by means of tipping at Bettws and Magor, and occasioned no serious nuisances.

In addition to the regular routine treatments in connection with rodent control, both tips were given two dressings with a D.D.T. base during the summer months in order to control insect pests.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal action was taken with the following:—

<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Address.</i>	<i>Results.</i>
Section 92. Public Health Act, 1936. Pigs improperly kept.	Walnut Tree Cottage, Michaelstone-y- Fedw.	Order to abate nuisance within 28 days.
Section 92. Public Health Act, 1936. Pigs improperly kept. Disobedi- ence of Order of Court.	Walnut Tree Cottage, Michaelstone-y- Fedw.	Fined £5 and con- tinual penalty of £1 per day to com- mence 14 days after hearing.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. JAMES,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955,
for the Rural District of Magor & St. Mellons in the County of
Monmouth.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

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**1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS
AS TO HEALTH.**

(including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises 1	M/c line No. 2	Number on Register 3	Inspection 4	Number of Written Notices 5	Occupiers Prosecuted 6
1.—Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	3	7	Nil	Nil
2.—Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies.	2	31	72	Nil	Nil
3.—Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises.)	3	3	11	Nil	Nil
Total ...		37	90	Nil	Nil

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars. 1	M/c Line No. 2	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted 7
		Found 3	Remedied 4	Referred to H.M. Inspector 5	By H.M. Inspector 6	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	Nil.				
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	Nil.				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	Nil.				
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	7	Nil.				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	Nil.				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	Nil.				
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	10	1	1		1	
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	Nil.				
Other offences (not including offences relating to homework)	12	Nil.				
Total		1	1	Nil	1	Nil.







